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JAN 27 2012

PCT LEGAL ADMINISTRATION

In re Application of	:	
SAILOR, Michael J., et al.	:	
Application No. 10/583,920	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Int'l Filing Date: 21 December 2004	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and (a)(6)
Attorney Docket No. 0321.68811	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6), filed 18 October 2011, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications set forth in the amendment.

The petition is **GRANTED**

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000 and after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) and 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(i) and 1.78(a)(5)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The petition complies with the requirements for a grantable petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) in that (1) a reference to the prior-filed applications has been included in an amendment, as provided by 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(iii) and 1.78(a)(5)(iii); (2) the surcharge fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(t) has been submitted; and (3) the petition's statement of unintentional delay is construed to mean the entire delay between the date the claim was due under paragraph (a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii) of this section and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. If this is not a correct interpretation, applicants must notify the Office immediately. Having found

that the petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) to the prior-filed applications satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6), the petition is granted.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) should not be construed as meaning that this application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the prior-filed applications. In order for this application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §§120 and 365(c) and 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) and under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(4) and (a)(5) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether this application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed applications, accompanies this decision on petition.

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to Erin Thomson at (571) 272-3292. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This matter is being referred to Technology Center Art Unit 1653 for appropriate action on the amendment filed 18 October 2011, including consideration by the examiner of applicant's entitlement to claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 119(e) to the prior-filed applications.

/Boris Milef/
Boris Milef
PCT Legal Examiner
PCT Legal Administration